

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 769

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 122

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MARITIMES WITH REGARD
TO FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

1. IN HALIFAX DAVID LEWIS, LEADER OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY, ON MAY 27 IN CAMPAIGN SPEECH REITERATED HIS CALL FOR SIX PER CENT MORTGAGE RATE FOR LOW AND MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES. THIS WAS IN LINE WITH HIS PARTY'S COMMITMENT TO A SIX PERCENT MORTGAGE RATE FOR ALL HOUSING ACT LOANS TO FAMILIES EARNING LESS THAN 15,000 DOLLARS A YEAR. MR LEWIS CRITICIZED THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO COPE WITH SKYROCKETING MORTGAGE RATES, SAYING THAT IN FACT THE LIBERALS HAVE MADE THE PROBLEM WORSE BY CONTINUALLY RAISING INTEREST RATES AND INTRODUCING LEGISLATION WHICH THE LIBERALS HOPED WOULD ENCOURAGE PRIVATE MORTGAGE MONEY RATHER THAN EXPANDING THE SCHEME (HOUSING ACT).

2. ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THE MARITIMES ELECTORAL SCENE HAS BEEN THE NOMINATION FOR THE RIDING OF MONCTON NEW BRUNSWICK AS THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVAIVE (PC) CANDIDATE OF MAYOR LEONARD JONES, A VIGOROUS ANTI-BILINGUALIST WHOSE VIEWS ON THE BILINGUAL QUESTION RUN CONTRARY TO THE STATED POLICY OF THE
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PARTY. (SEE CONGEN A-41, APRIL 10, 1974)

CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER, ROBERT STANFIELD, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE WILL VETO MAYOR JONES NOMINATION AS THE PARTY S OFFICIAL CANDIDATE IN THE MONCTON CONSTITUENCY. THE CANDIDATE FAVORED BY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PC S WAS THE INCUMBENT, CHARLES THOMAS, WHOSE NAME HAD BEEN PUT UP FOR NOMINATION BY THE SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTER FOR NEW BRUNSWICK, MRS BRENDA ROBERTSON. PREMIER RICHARD HATFIELD (PC) ALSO PLED WITH THE NOMINATING CONVENTION TO CONSIDER THE UNITY OF THE COUNTRY TO NO AVAIL. JONES WAS NOMINATED BY A VOTE OF 499 TO 445.

3. IN VIEW OF STANFIELD S REPUDIATION OF JONES, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT JONES MAY RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT THUS SPLITTING THE PC VOTE IN THE MONCTON CONSTITUENCY. THE MONCTON RIDING IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE KEY SEATS FOR THE PC VOTE IN THE MARITIMES.
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